MIC Meeting
January 17, 2012
10 am – 12 pm
Welcome Center – State House
Augusta, ME
Agenda

Attendees:

Roger Berle, Chair, Cliff Island
Malcolm Donald, Cranberry Isles
Alden Finney, Great Diamond Island
Rudy Graf, Isle au Haut
Bev Johnson, Chebeague
Eva Murray, Matinicus
Mary McAleney, Long
Bev Roxby, Frenchboro
Marjorie Stratton, Co-chair, Vinalhaven
Kathy Warren, Vinalhaven

Legislators and Guests:

Chris Rector, Maine Senate District 22
Chuck Kruger, Maine House, District 48
Peter Stuckey, Maine House, District 114
Walter Kumiega III, Maine House, District 36
Meredith Strang-Burgess, Maine House, District 108
David Webster, Maine House, District 106
Richard Woodbury, Maine Senate, District 11
Justin Alfond, Maine Senate, District 8
Jonathan McKane, Maine House, District 51
Brian Langley, Maine Senate, District 28
Elspeth Flemings, Maine House, District 35
Jonathan Nass, Senior Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office

Island Institute Staff:

Shey Conover, VP of Operations
Mary Terry, Community Development Director
Ruth Kermish-Allen, Education Director
Anne Bardaglio, TLC Senior Fellow
Ben Odgren, Island Education Fund Associate
Andy Dorr, Vinalhaven, Community and Economic Development Fellow

Approved 5/11/12
The MIC was introduced on the House Floor at the 10 am opening of the session. Thank you to Rep Walter Kumiega for arranging the introduction and ushering the group to the gallery.

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am

Introductions were made. Chocolates were generously provided by Black Dinah Chocolatiers of Isle au Haut. They were thoroughly enjoyed by guests and MIC reps alike.

MIC Business

- Kathy Warren moved to accept the November minutes, Rudy Graf seconded. Motion passed.

- Rudy Graf moved to accept the financial report, Bev Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

Legislative Updates

Senator Chris Rector welcomed the MIC to the State House. In turn, Senator Rector was recognized for his support in arranging this meeting. He shared the following

- Island residential homes for the elderly were concerned about proposed funding cuts - that issue is off the table for now
- Education funding may well see cuts which will relate directly to property taxes
- Many Flags one Campus work continues and the island schools are a model of such collaboration
- Teaching and Learning Collaborative (TLC) is a model of how to approach education differently and Sen. Rector encouraged us to link our work to the mainland communities as appropriate
- This is an emergency session with 105 new bills and some carry over from last year
- He suggests we look to the Maine Economic Growth Council Report due out March 6th and the Maine Development Foundation Economic Indicator reports as valuable resources
- Senator Rector drew our attention to the need for a ready and prepared workforce as a key to state economic development and again praised the island schools for creating programming to support willing and ready learners
- Updated the group on state wide economic development, including Kestrel and CR Hussey Seating

Jonathan Nass, Senior Policy Advisor in the Governor’s Office provided the following updates:

- George C. Gervais, Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, is working very hard to compete against big states to bring jobs to Maine. (See http://www.maine.gov/decd/index.shtml)
- Steven Bowen, Commissioner of Education, is reviewing educational policy statewide. A report is due out this week which will include support of standards based learning and innovation in education. (see http://www.maine.gov/education/ for details)

Senator Brian Langley provided additional information around education:

- He chairs the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
- Concerns over bullying, drop-out prevention and preparing students for an economic future
- Sponsored L.D. 1422 An Act To Prepare Maine People for the Future Economy (see http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?id=1422&PID=1456&sn=125)
- Has been an educator and values unleashing creativity
- Very interested in island schools and willing to visit and help in any way he can

Approved 5/11/12
Senator Dick Woodbury spoke and noted the following:
- This is his first term in the Senate and he represents Chebeague and Long
- He serves on the Taxation Committee and the Judiciary Committee
- He is committed to working on tax issues and values the WWF tax designation as innovative

Senator Justin Alfond addressed the group and noted:
- He represents the islands of Peaks, Cliff and the Diamonds
- He serves on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee
- He has worked with Portland School Superintendent Morse to support Portland Island Schools.

Representative Walter Kumiega welcomed the group and noted that he represents five off-shore islands.

**Island Institute Education Presentation**

**Presenters:** Ruth Kermish-Allan, Education Director  
Anne Bardaglio, TLC Senior Fellow  
Ben Odgren, IEF Associate

**Highlight announcements:**
- Announced plans to award $150,000 in college scholarships in 2012, applications due April 2, 2012 ([http://www.islandinstitute.org/scholarships.php](http://www.islandinstitute.org/scholarships.php))
- Described the Island Scholars Network created to support island college students and their families
- Announced plans to apply for a new USDA grant to expand the Tanberg program

**Overview of work with the island schools:**
- Work is focused on place-based learning, inspired by the communities and enabling student connection to their communities ([http://www.islandinstitute.org/place_based_education.php](http://www.islandinstitute.org/place_based_education.php))
- We work to integrate technology as part of life/work skills ([http://www.islandinstitute.org/it_education.php](http://www.islandinstitute.org/it_education.php))

**Overview of the Outer Island Teaching Learning Collaborative:**
- It is an opt-in program designed to allow shared resources, learning, and opportunities to the schools
- Recently, the students created an inter-island student council for the outer island schools
- The outer islands participate in multi-day field trips
- Much of the work is done virtually through skype, wikki groups, and the tanberg units to allow for meeting across space
- Examples include across island reading groups, on-line discussion groups, and shared science learning
- To learn more go to [http://www.islandinstitute.org/TheOuterIslandsTeachingandLearningCollaborative.php](http://www.islandinstitute.org/TheOuterIslandsTeachingandLearningCollaborative.php)

Approved 5/11/12
The MIC meeting Skyped with teachers from Islesford to learn more about the TLC and the supporting technology.

Island Updates

Great Diamond Island, Alden Finney
- Noted that there is no school on island
- As part of Portland, island children attend Portland Schools
- This year there is a kindergartener attending the Long School, the family is paying the tuition

Long Island, Mary McAleney and Ann Thorp
- The school has 16 students, K-5
- Middle and High school children attend Portland, Long pays tuition
- The school board has 3 members and a very supportive Superintendent, Bump Hadley
- Long has hosted children from other islands for arts, music and other educational learning programs

Isle au Haut, Rudy Graf
- Town comprehensive plan was approved by the state in mid-December
- The town will vote on the plan this spring for final adoption
- Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation (ICDC) works on the three legs of community:
  - Education – supporting the school to make space for families with children
  - Economic Development – supporting efforts to bring jobs and enhance the local economy
  - Housing – working toward affordable housing opportunities for island residents
    - ICDC is in the process of building 2 new, energy efficient homes using the Maine State Housing bond funds and locally raised funds
    - The goal is to bring 2 families with young children to the island
    - Bangor Daily News recently ran an article which generated some serious inquiries
  - See http://isleauhaut.org/community-resources/what-is-icdc/

Vinalhaven, Marjorie Stratton
- Recognized the work of Island Fellow Andy Dorr in putting together a visual overview of the community and his work in the community
- Noted that the airport project funds allowed for the Vinalhaven airstrip to be updated as well as pending work on Matinicus and thanked legislators for their support in this
- The community is working to update the Vinalhaven Comprehensive Plan
- School update, Kathy Warren
  - Vinalhaven in a k – 12 school
  - Is an independent SAD
  - Maintains 23 teachers
  - Built their school around the educational needs
  - Is working toward standards based education with a focus on competency rather than grades

Frenchboro, Bev Roxby
- The island school students completed the informational board
- The school just came in 3rd in the state in the State Lego Competition

Approved 5/11/12
• She serves on the school committee which often meets via SKYPE
• The teachers Michelle and Doug Finn are in their last year at the school, a new teacher will be hired for the 2012-13 school year
• There is community dissention which affects the school and could lead to some families leaving the island this coming year
• The school had a great Christmas play this season
• The island has a long history of creating affordable housing to encourage a strong and diverse community

Chebeague, Bev Johnson
• The school is k – 5
• 6th grade tuitions to Yarmouth this year in a transition from the Cumberland school system to the Yarmouth school system
• 7 – 12 grades tuition to Cumberland at this point
• There is a new and very popular tech club for island students, they are working on digital story telling
• The Island Commons is a senior assisted living facility
  o 7 residents
  o Provides local employment
  o Faces state funding cuts, as referenced by Senator Rector earlier in the meeting

Matinicus, Eva Murray
• It has been a strange year
  o 2 families have moved off island
  o Several community tragedies
  o The community is healing
• There are 4 children in the school and it may be down to 2 next year
• The air service is stable and much appreciated

Cliff, Roger Berle
• The school is strong
• The population is low

Cranberry Isles, Malcolm Donald
• There is concern over property taxes as the state funding diminishes
• The town fathers want to send 1 representative to the MIC, rather than 2
• Malcolm plans to “retire” from the MIC this coming year and will bring the new representative with him to the summer meeting
• All present appreciate Malcolm’s long standing commitment to the MIC and his community – he will always be welcome to the meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary K. Terry
Community Development Director

Approved 5/11/12